



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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**Washington State Board of Health  
Resolution No. 01-001**

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Health's mission includes suggesting policies likely to better promote, protect, maintain and improve the health of Washingtonians;

**WHEREAS**, Washington State faces potential health threats that include terrorist attacks involving the use of explosive and conventional weapons, the use of biological agents and other weapons of mass destruction, epidemics of new and re-emerging diseases, and the proliferation of disease organisms that are resistant to antimicrobial agents;

**WHEREAS**, state and local public health and health care systems will be among the first responders in the event of any major disaster or disease outbreak;

**WHEREAS**, state and local public health and health care professionals will be critical to the successful resolution of a major health event such as a bioterrorism attack;

**WHEREAS**, a long-term erosion in funding of the public health systems in this country has resulted in a progressive loss of public health system capacity to provide essential services;

**WHEREAS**, efforts to contain health-care costs by limiting excess capacity in the health care system, combined with workforce shortages, have reduced the nation's and the state's surge capacity;

**WHEREAS**, the federal government may make a significant investment in building capacity to respond to bioterrorist attacks and related events; however, federal funds for bioterrorism response have not, in the past, reached the state and local jurisdictions at a level commensurate with their role; and

**WHEREAS**, recent state and local budget cuts have resulted in cuts in state and local public health programs and pending cuts threaten to further reduce state and local support for the public health infrastructure

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Board of Health, in order to protect the health of the residents of Washington, supports efforts by all levels of government to place a clear priority on maintaining, and enhancing when necessary, funding levels that provide for adequate state and local public health and health care capacity to respond to a health emergency such as a major disease outbreak or terrorist attack.

APPROVED this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of November, 2001

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Linda Lake, Chair  
State Board of Health